# CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

# LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE

# WHAT IS LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE?

Liberal Arts College provides a new undergraduate university programme housed in its own building on Concordia University's downtown campus. The College is a coherent response to the premature specialization and fragmentation of knowledge that mark many university B.A. programmes. It is unique as an educational structure in Montreal, ensuring a university education that combines demanding general liberal arts work with advanced disciplinary study in a departmental major, specialization, honours or joint-honours programme.

The College defines the "liberal arts" in contemporary terms. It stresses work in a Core Curriculum of seven interrelated seminars and tutorials, required of all students. These courses span the major areas of human knowledge and understanding, including the humanities, social sciences, art, music, and scientific thought. They share an emphasis on the complex interrelationships between society and culture, from antiquity to the present. Work in the Core Curriculum is the requisite basis for Liberal Arts College's second major educational component, advanced work and research in a specific discipline or area.

# WHAT ARE THE COLLEGE'S GOALS?

Liberal Arts College seeks to provide the student with a carefully designed university experience, within which he or she undertakes the process of becoming an educated person. The goal of the combined Core Curriculum-disciplinary programmes is to develop an informed, literate, critical consciousness.

**From its inception, Liberal Arts College has stressed that:**

> *B.A. graduates should know how to write and to organize their thoughts clearly, and should be able to use a second language as a crucial educational resource. Students are not meaningfully educated if they are allowed to leave university without a critical awareness of the nature and development of Western society and culture over time; without an informed familiarity with art and music, or the major expressions of our literary, philosophical, and religious traditions; without an understanding of the modern social sciences and their relation to contemporary problems; without, finally, some intelligent notion of the nature and social consequences of science and technology.*

# WHY COME TO LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE?

Liberal Arts College is for students who want a solid, demanding university education, and are willing to work hard to achieve it. The combination of the College's unique curriculum and a departmental major, specialization, honours or joint-honours constitute the most coherent liberal arts education currently available in Montreal, and across Canada. This, together with the College's emphasis on seminars and tutorials, ensures the acquisition of basic knowledge and the development of finely-honed expressive and research skills. All College courses and programmes stress critical thinking and independent research, within a framework of close student-staff advising, informal exchanges, and extra-curricular contact.

Graduates of Liberal Arts College will have a solid educational foundation, as well as specialized knowledge and research skills reflecting their disciplinary or area specialization. Students with this calibre of training will qualify for professional and graduate schools, if they decide to continue their studies, and will satisfy demanding or specialized employers if they seek a position straight from university.

Liberal Arts College, however, is primarily for students who think that education is about, and for, life. The Liberal Arts College graduates will have acquired informed knowledge and critical skills indispensable to social and cultural understanding, the basis for critical self-awareness and a precondition for meaningful action in the world. In this sense, the three years of Liberal Arts College university work are the beginning, rather than the end, of education.

# LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE CORE CURRICULUM

An essential feature of the College's programme is its unique Core Curriculum, which is required of all students regardless of their disciplinary focus and departmental affiliation. The Core consists of forty-two of the ninety credits required for the B.A. degree. These Core courses, given on a seminar basis, are carefully constructed and interrelated, and are available only within the College. They cover the major areas of human knowledge and understanding (humanities, social sciences, art, music, and scientific thought), and are informed by a common concern with the nature and development of Western society and culture, from antiquity to the present. They are given in a set sequence, and emphasize sophisticated analytic techniques, research and writing skills, and use of a second language.

## Core Curriculum Three-Year Sequence

| YEAR ONE | YEAR TWO | YEAR THREE |
|---|---|---|
| | TWO OF: | |
| LBCL* 291. Structure and Dynamics of Western Civilization<br>LBCL 292. Modes of Expression and Interpretation<br>LBCL 293. Art and Aesthetic Experience | LBCL 391. Contemporary Civilization<br>LBCL 392. The Sciences In Society<br>LBCL 393. Contemporary Modes of Expression and Interpretation | LBCL 490. Integrative Seminar<br>ONE OF LBCL 391, 392, 393 |

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**LBCL C291. Structure and Dynamics of Western Civilization.**
A study of the changing relations between productive structures, socio-political institutions and cultural traditions from antiquity to the present. This course emphasizes the analysis of social change over time, and requires reading in a variety of primary sources and secondary materials. Primary sources such as Aristotle's *Politics,* Aquinas' *Summa Theologiae* and Rousseau's *Discourse on Inequality,* and works such as Marc Bloch's *Feudal Society,* C.B. Macpherson's *Possessive Individualism* and F. Neumann's *Behemoth* will be read. (6 credits)

**LBCL C292. Modes of Expression and Interpretation**
A survey of major Western literary, religious and philosophical traditions, involving the reading and interpretation of significant primary texts from antiquity to the contemporary period. Emphasis is placed on development of writing skills and interpretive analysis. Works such as the *Odyssey,* Plato's *Symposium,* Goethe's *Faust* and Dostoievski's *Notes from the Underground* will be studied. (6 credits)

**LBCL C293. Art and Aesthetic Experience**
An integrated course in the nature and development of music and the visual arts, with work in criticism and aesthetic theory. The course examines artistic expressions through thematic and chronological approaches and includes attention to issues concerning the creative process and the relation of art to society. Laboratories for slide viewing and music listening are part of the course. (6 credits)

**LBCL C391. Contemporary Civilization**
Analysis of the dynamic relations between individual, state and society in the recent and contemporary world. Classical perspectives and contemporary analyses derived from the social sciences will be brought to bear on selected social, economic, ideological and political problems. Students will read from such works as D. Ricardo's *Principles of Political Economy,* M. Weber's *Economy and Society,* D. Landes' *Unbound Prometheus,* S. Freud's *Interpretation of Dreams,* and Hannah Arendt's *On Revolution.* (6 credits)

**LBCL C392. The Sciences in Society**
An introduction to the nature, development, organization and social consequences of the scientific enterprise. Issues in the philosophy, sociology and history of science, as well as in the relation of technology to science and to society are emphasized. Laboratory exercises are an integral part of the course. Works such as Bernal's *Science in History,* Watson's *Double Helix,* and Einstein and Infeld's *Evolution of Physics* will be read, as well as a number of original sources like Aristotle's *Physics,* and Darwin's *Origin of Species.* (6 credits)

**LBCL C393. Contemporary Modes of Expression and Interpretation**
An advanced seminar organized on a topical and thematic basis and emphasizing intensive, sustained analysis of a limited number of fundamentally important literary, religious, and philosophical works. Stress is placed on bringing critical and interpretive approaches to bear on the texts in a series of extended written papers. It permits the requisite sustained analysis of authors such as Hegel, Kierkegaard, Mann and Joyce. (6 credits)

**LBCL C490. Integrative Seminar**
The College research seminar will relate the student's disciplinary or area specialization to the general perspectives of the Liberal Arts College Core Programme. The seminar topic will vary from year to year and students will be required to write a significant research paper. (6 credits)

* *"LBCL" is the acronym for "Liberal Arts College" prefacing all College course listings in the University Calendar.*

# COLLEGE PROGRAMMES

The College's stress on demanding general education in the Core Curriculum is, importantly, linked to its second curricular emphasis: advanced work in a single departmental discipline or area of specialization. All College degree programmes reflect these two, related emphases.

Following admission, upon the basis of a declared major or honours programme, students -- acting in close coordination with personal faculty advisers -- develop a specific discipline or area of specialization. This choice is normally reflected in the selection of the two non-College courses taken in the first year. College students generally, therefore, work simultaneously in the Core and in a specific department or programme, on either a major, specialization, honours or joint-honours basis.

## THE "LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE-DISCIPLINE" DEGREE

Most students entering the College will do specialized work in a specific discipline -- Sociology, French, Political Science, History, Classics, and so on. They may choose to do a major, a specialization or an honours (subject to the regulations of the Faculty of Arts and Science).

The records of such students will indicate both College standing and departmental status, as well as level of work (major, specialization, honours, or joint-honours). They will, for example, note "Liberal Arts College/Sociology-Honours" or "Liberal Arts College/French-Major". All Liberal Arts College students must satisfy the specific academic requirements of both the College and their departmental programme, as well as the degree requirements of the Faculty of Arts and Science.

## SPECIAL DEGREE PROGRAMMES

College degree candidates may utilize all existing Faculty of Arts and Science curricular structures and programmes. Liberal Arts College students with unique needs or special interests may, with College permission and under close staff supervision, develop individual degree programmes. Such programmes, envisioned only for relatively few students, are available with permission of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies either upon admission or after initial entry into the College. Students should advise the College of their interest and should contact the appropriate programme adviser for such curricular options, as indicated in the University Undergraduate Calendar.

# ADVISING

Both the educational goals of Liberal Arts College and the nature of its joint Core-discipline programmes make careful personal advising necessary. Each entering student is assigned a faculty Fellow as his or her personal adviser, and will meet with this adviser regularly. In addition, each student's progress is evaluated annually.

Candidates for honours work in departmental disciplines receive special advising, since their College and disciplinary programmes must be carefully coordinated within the 90-credit B.A. requirements. Careful attention will also be given to career and professional interests as they develop, with a view towards intelligent choice of subsequent academic preparation.

# ADMISSIONS AND PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS FOR LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE

Liberal Arts College combines demanding general education with significant disciplinary concentration in programmes committed to serious academic work. The College hopes above all to attract able students willing to work hard to obtain a fine education.

Please apply simultaneously to Concordia University and to Liberal Arts College, and indicate interest in Liberal Arts College by filling in "Box D" on the Concordia University Application for Admission to be found in the University Handbook. This will alert us to your interest, but please also contact the College directly, by phone, visit, or by sending in the tear-off page included in this brochure.

## SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE

A good CEGEP average, roughly equivalent in level to the University "B", is expected, although promising students may be admitted to the College on the basis of the personal interview given to all applicants. Such applicants are also expected to demonstrate proficiency in English composition and in the ability to read a second language, normally French*. If necessary, post-admission remedial or make-up work will be required.

All interested students should contact the College directly for an interview. Full-time degree candidates will normally complete their College Core Curriculum within three academic years; part-time candidates should complete the Core within six academic years.

Honours candidates in all programmes must maintain a "B" average in the College Core Curriculum, with no grade lower than a "C"; all others must maintain a "C" average in the Core, with no grade lower than a "D". All College students in their final year take LBCL 490, The Integrative Seminar, with Honours candidates expected to undertake significant original research on a topic issuing from this seminar. Where appropriate, College Honours candidates may with permission combine the 490 research paper with their departmental, area, or special-programme honours theses.

* *Les étudiants francophones devront donner la preuve de leur connaissance de la langue anglaise.*

# COLLEGE LIFE AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Liberal Arts College, in addition to its Core Curriculum and emphasis on disciplinary specialization, is also the setting for a programme of extra-curricular activities. Within the walls of its Mackay Street brownstone, the intellectual excitement and creativity of its seminars and tutorials are part of the daily life of the College.

The College is presently housed at 2010 Mackay (tel. 879-8051) in a three-storey building which groups together faculty offices, seminar, library, study and lounge space.

College life is an extension of the close student-faculty contact and careful advising that mark Liberal Arts College's academic activities. Faculty Fellows are available to students in their offices and during commons hours, while the College is also the site of a continuing programme of seminars and colloquia by staff and visitors and of events in the arts. The College encourages students to involve themselves in Montreal's cultural life, and staff also organize group research and cultural visits to major intellectual centres outside Montreal.

Students play a role in determining the programme of visiting speakers and cultural events, and are encouraged to form their own groups, clubs, and associations. Liberal Arts College students are eligible to apply to appropriate student government organizations for funds in support of their activities. As a new institution, the College is open to initiatives and new projects on the part of its students.

The College Commons Room is a natural focus of student-faculty exchanges and Thursday afternoons are kept open for seminars, colloquia, and other College events.

## THE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE COUNCIL

Council is the general representative body of the College, grouping faculty and student representatives. All issues of basic policy are discussed and decided upon in Council, and decisions are arrived at on the basis of democratic debate and procedures.

# THE COLLEGE TEACHING STAFF

Liberal Arts College is staffed by faculty Fellows who are scholars and teachers chosen from the University's departments. Senior Fellows are resident in the College, as is its Principal, who also teaches in the Core Curriculum. Non resident Fellows have regular office hours in the College. It is also intended that a Distinguished Visiting Liberal Arts College Fellow, chosen from outside the University for his or her distinguished academic achievement, be resident and teaching in the College.

## Fellows of Liberal Arts College for 1978-79

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|---|---|
| Frederick Krantz | (History) Principal |
| Henry E. Beissel | (English) |
| Edmund Egan | (Philosophy) |
| Albert Jordan | (French) |
| John F. Laffey | (History) |
| Jack Ornstein | (Philosophy) |
| George Rudé | (History) |
| Warren Sanderson | (Fine Arts) |
| Franziska Shlosser | (Classics & History) |
| G. David Sheps | (English) |
| Harvey Shulman | (Political Science) |